

1           [0061]                           **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

2           [0062]       We have discovered that the formation of particulate inclusions at the surface  
3           of an aluminum alloy article, which inclusions interfere with a smooth transition from  
4           the alloy surface to an overlying aluminum oxide protective film can be controlled by  
5           maintaining the content of mobile impurities within a specific range and controlling the  
6           particulate size and distribution of the mobile impurities and compounds thereof; by  
7           heat-treating the aluminum alloy at a temperature less than about 330 °C ; and by  
8           creating the aluminum oxide protective film by employing a particular electrolytic  
9           process. When these factors are taken into consideration, an improved aluminum oxide  
10          protective film is obtained.